

First Flight – Main Textbook (Prose & Poetry)

Prose:

1. A Letter to God – G. L. Fuentes

1. Who read the letter sent by Lencho ? What did he do then ? (40-50 words) 2023
2. What did Lencho hope for and why ? (40-50 words) 2023
3. Why did the night after the rains turn sorrowful for Lencho? (A Letter to God) (40-50 words) 2023
4. What are the raindrops compared to and why ? (40-50 words) 2023
5. What idea does the Postmaster come up with? What did he do to stick to his resolution? (40-50 words) 2024
6. Explain the irony in the chapter, “A Letter to God”. (40-50 words) 2024
7. Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses.

Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both. You may begin like this : One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son however

(Reference A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares) (100-120 words) 2024

8. The postmaster, experiencing the contentment of a man who had performed a good deed, handed the letter to Lencho. How did Lencho react when he counted the money ? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
9. Faith is like a ray of hope in a distressful situation. Discuss “ A Letter to God “ with reference to Lencho’s unflinching faith in God. (40-50 words) 2025
10. Illustrate Lencho’s unwavering faith in the Divine. (40-50 words) 2025
11. In what manner did Lencho’s cornfield suffer damage? Did he hold any expectations of receiving assistance? (40-50 words) 2025
12. Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in ‘A Letter to God’ and ‘The Sermon at Benares’. (100-120 words) 2025
13. Comment on the reactions and feelings of Lencho and Nelson Mandela when they faced challenges in their lives. (100-120 words) 2025
14. Analyse the similarities and differences between the young seagull from “Two stories about flying” and Lencho from “A Letter to God”, and provide a rationale for the significant role faith plays in challenging and adverse situations in life. (100-120 words) 2025
- 15.
16. Not a leaf remained on the trees. The corn was totally destroyed. The flowers were gone from the plants. Lencho’s soul was filled with sadness. When the storm had passed, he stood in the middle of the field and said to his sons, “A plague of locusts would have left more than this. The hail has left nothing.

This year we will have no corn.” That night was a sorrowful one. “All our work, for nothing.” “There’s no one who can help us.” “We’ll all go hungry this year.” **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) Why were there no leaves left on the trees ?

(A) The locusts ate them up.

(B) An earthquake had occurred.

- (C) There was a hailstorm. (D) The animals grazed on them.
- (ii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. Lencho felt _____ (jubilant/devastated) when he saw his destroyed corn fields.
- (iii) When Lencho says, "All our work, for nothing," what does he refer to? Explain in about 40 words.
- (iv) Why would Lencho have preferred a plague of locusts to a hailstorm?

2. Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom – Nelson Mandela

1. Mandela said, "People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love. Discuss. (100-120 words) 2023
2. 'No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion'. Do you agree? Elaborate on the basis of the chapter "Nelson Mandela - Long Walk to Freedom". (100-120 words) 2023
3. In the chapter 'A Baker from Goa' the narrator talks about his childhood in Goa and his fond memories. In about 120 words write a presentation draft comparing the childhood of the narrator in 'A Baker from Goa' to that of Nelson Mandela.

You may begin this way:

Childhood memories remind us of the days gone by.....

Reference: A Baker from Goa and Nelson Mandela : Long Walk (100-120 words) 2024

4. A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations. You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli's desire and Mandela's vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela.

You may begin like this:

One acknowledges that both, Valli and Mandela _____ however,

(Reference – Nelson Mandela – A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus) (100-120 words) 2024

5. Nelson Mandela in his inauguration speech says, we, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. What is the significance of this statement with reference to the political system that prevailed before this? (40-50 words) 2024
6. Mandela in his speech says, "The policy of apartheid created a deep and lasting wound in my country and my people." Explain the significance of the word "wound" as used by Mandela. (40-50 words) 2025
7. The transition from the apartheid system in South Africa to a new era of equality reflects broader historical trends in the struggle for human rights and social justice. Elaborate. (40-50 words) 2025
8. In what way did Nelson Mandela's yearning for freedom alter the course of his life? (40-50 words) 2025
9. In 'The Ball Poem', Berryman explores the themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. Mandela also experienced loss of freedom and suffering along with his countrymen during his growing years on the basis of his race and colour. Compare and contrast the commonality of themes in both the texts. (100 - 120 Words) 2025
10. Comment on the reactions and feelings of Lencho and Nelson Mandela when they faced challenges in their lives. (100-120 words) 2025

11. It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the true meaning of courage. Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give up their lives for an idea. I have seen men and women stand up to attacks and torture without breaking, showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination. I learned that courage was not the

absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) What effect does the experience as described in the lines below have on the speaker?

Time and again, I have seen men and women risk their lives for an idea.

(ii) Select one inference about the idea of courage from the given context:

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.

- (a) being fearless (b) absence of fear (c) feeding your fears (d) ability to overcome fear

(iii) Answer in about 40 words, with reference to the extract: **(2)**

According to the author, what does true courage entail? How does this perspective differ from a common misconception about courage?

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct phrase from the bracket in the context of the given extract:

Men stood up to torture showing strength and resilience that is _____ (impossible to understand / seeped in reality).

3. Two Stories about Flying

1. Motivation plays an important role in taking risks in life and in succeeding. Do you agree? Discuss with reference to the pilot of the old Dakota and the young seagull. (100-120 words) 2023
2. You have been asked to present an evaluation of the approaches of both, the Baby Seagull and the Pilot who was lost in the clouds, towards achieving their dreams of conquering the skies. Write this presentation draft including your insights, comparing the approaches of both. You may begin this way : One acknowledges that both, the Seagull and the Pilot, wanted to however, **(100-120 words) 2024**
3. Self-doubt and fear often act as barriers to success. On the other hand, curiosity leads to learning new things. Justify the statement citing instances from 'His First Flight' and 'Madam Rides the Bus'. **(100-120 words) 2025**
4. That was twenty-four hours ago. Since then nobody had come near him. The day before, all day long, he had watched his parents flying about with his brothers and sister, perfecting them in the art of flight, teaching them how to skim the waves and how to dive for fish. He had, in fact, seen his elder brother catch his first herring and devour it, standing on a rock, while his parents circled around raising a proud cackle and all the morning the whole family had walked about on the big plateau midway down the opposite cliff taunting him for his cowardice. **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The use of the phrase 'proud cackle' adds to a sense of _____ (noise/pride) in the extract.

(ii) How do the parents teach their young to be independent?

(iii) Describe the contrasting reactions of the parents to their children giving reasons. **(2)**

(iv) The word 'devour' in the above extract most nearly means

- (a) scared (b) gobbled (c) preserved (d) cooled

I. His First Flight – Liam O' Flaherty

1. Describe the young seagull's first flight. **(40-50 words) 2023**
2. " Family played a vital role in the first flight of the young seagull. Give examples to substantiate the above statement. **(40-50 words) 2023**
3. Why was the young seagull afraid to fly with his family members? **(40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023**
4. Briefly bring out the contrast between the young seagull's initial attempts to fly and his first successful flight. **(40-50 words) 2024**

5. Flying is a natural act in birds. Then why was the young seagull ‘exhausted by the strange exercise’? Justify the given statement with reference to baby seagull’s fear. **(40-50 words) 2024**
6. He felt certain that his wings would never support him; so he bent his head and ran away back to the little hole under the ledge where he slept at night. Even when each of his brothers and his little sister, whose wings were far shorter than his own, ran to the brink, flapped their wings, and flew away, he failed to muster up courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate. His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away. But for the life of him he could not move.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) State any one inference about the parents of the baby seagull from the given statement.

“His father and mother had come around calling to him shrilly, upbraiding him, threatening to let him starve on his ledge unless he flew away.”

(ii) Where did the little seagull sleep at night ?

(iii) Which factors contributed to the young seagull’s reluctance to fly despite the encouragement and threats from his parents ? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. **(2 Marks)**

(iv) Which phrase or word would correctly substitute ‘muster up’ in the given sentence from the extract ?

He failed to ‘muster up’ courage to take that plunge which appeared to him so desperate.

7. The moon was coming up in the east, behind me, and stars were shining in the clear sky above me. There wasn’t a cloud in the sky. I was happy to be alone high up above the sleeping countryside. I was flying my old Dakota aeroplane over France back to England. I was dreaming of my holiday and looking forward to being with my family. I looked at my watch: one thirty in the morning.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) What time of the day is the above extract set in ?

(A) dawn (B) afternoon (C) night (D) dusk

(ii) State any one inference about the writer from the given context.

“I was looking forward to being with my family.”

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. The use of the phrase ‘clear sky’ adds to a sense of _____ (favourable/flavourful) weather conditions.

(iv) How does the serene atmosphere described by the narrator contribute to the mood and anticipation of his journey back to England ? Elaborate in about 40 words, with reference to the extract. **(2 Marks)**

8. The young seagull’s fear of flying and reluctance to leave his ledge contribute to the development of the theme of independence and courage in the story. Justify. **(40-50 words) 2025**
9. “He was not falling headlong now. He was soaring gradually downwards and outwards, he was no longer afraid.” Describe the young seagull’s feelings, emotions and experiences, just before this moment. **(40-50 words) 2025**
- 10.
11. Analyse the similarities and differences between the young seagull from “Two stories about flying” and Lencho from “A Letter to God”, and provide a rationale for the significant role faith plays in challenging and adverse situations in life. **(100-120 words) 2025**
12. The protagonist in ‘The Ball Poem’ and the young seagull in ‘His First Flight’ face challenges. Discuss with reference to the two texts. **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**

II. Black Aeroplane – Frederick Forsyth

- I. “I’ll take the risk.” What is the risk? Why does the narrator take it? (40-50 words) 2023
- II.

4. From the Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank

1. Why does Anne think that 'paper' has more patience than 'people'? **(40-50 words) 2023 COMPARTMENT**
2. Amanda from the poem 'Amanda' is a teenager like Anne Frank and lives in her fantasy world whereas Anne is a chatterbox. What conversation will Anne Frank have with Amanda about different perspectives of life? Write your answer in about **120 words. (2024)**
3. Based on your understanding of the Play, 'The Proposal', what do you think of relationships? Prepare a speech draft on relationships based on Natalya's and Anne Frank's characters.

You may begin this way:

Good morning everyone.

Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I'd like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that

Thank you. (Reference: The Proposal & From the Diary of Anne Frank) (100-120 words) 2024

4. You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls : Anne Frank and Valli.

Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls. (Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this : Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls

You may end this way : To conclude I'd like to say that **(100-120 words) 2024**

5. You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during times of crisis. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality of themes of "The Ball Poem" and "From the Diary of Anne Frank".

You may begin this way : Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may end this way :

To conclude I'd like to Thank you. **(100 - 120 Words) 2024**

6. Comment on Anne Frank's and Valli's journeys from innocence to self-awareness. (From the Diary of Anne Frank and Madam Rides the Bus) **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2024**
7. In what way does 'Anne Frank's Diary' reflect the theme of isolation ? **(COMPARTMENT 2025)**
- 8.
9. The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities. **(100-120 words) 2025**

10. "Paper has more patience than people. I thought of this saying on one of those days when I was feeling a little depressed and was sitting at home with my chin in my hands, bored and listless, wondering whether to stay in or go out. I finally stayed where I was, brooding: Yes, paper does have more patience, and since I'm not planning to let anyone else read this stiff backed notebook grandly referred to as a 'diary', unless I should ever find a real friend, it probably won't make a bit of difference." **EXTRACT 2025**
- In light of the excerpt, what can we infer about the speaker's emotional state?
 - The narrator enhances the narrative technique of the extract by using:

(A) descriptive language	(B) literary allusions
(C) humour	(D) reflective
 - Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:
The narrator doesn't plan to let anyone read her diary as she doesn't have any real _____. (friend / incidents)
 - Why does the narrator say that 'paper has more patience than people'?

5. Glimpses of India

○ PART I. A Baker from Goa – Lucio Rodrigues

- How did the baker become synonymous with celebrations and occasions in Goa ? (30-40 words) 2022
- What does the writer recall about his childhood in Goa? (30-40 words) 2022
- Who are paders and why are they friends of children? (40-50 words) 2023
- How is the Goan baker still an important part of the life of a Goan village ? (40-50 words) 2023
- In the chapter 'A Baker from Goa' the narrator talks about his childhood in Goa and his fond memories. In about 120 words write a presentation draft comparing the childhood of the narrator in 'A Baker from Goa' to that of Nelson Mandela.

You may begin this way:

Childhood memories remind us of the days gone by....

Reference: A Baker from Goa and Nelson Mandela : Long Walk (100-120 words) 2024

- "During our childhood in Goa, the baker used to be our friend, companion and guide." What does this statement imply in relation to the character of the baker? (40-50 words) 2024
- How does the description of the baker's lifestyle in the past evoke a sense of nostalgia ? (40-50 words) 2025
- The portrayal of the baker's attire and role in the village emphasize the cultural and social significance of bread-making within the community. Elaborate. (40-50 words) 2025
- Discuss, with examples from the text, the role of the baker in shaping the memories and experiences of the people in Goa. (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025
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○ PART II. Coorg – Lokesh Abrol

1. What attracts visitors to Coorg ? (30-40 words) 2022
2. Why is Coorg called the land of the rolling hills? (30-40 words) 2022
3. Where is Coorg located ? Write any two characteristics of the people of Coorg ? (40-50 words) 2023
4. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognized in modern India? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
5. Coorg has been defined as a piece of heaven by the writer. Justify. (40-50 Words) 2024
6. Coorg is known as ‘the land of rolling hills’. Describe its picturesque beauty and biodiversity. (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
7. How does modern India recognize the tradition of courage and bravery in Coorgi culture? (40-50 Words) 2025
- 8.

○ PART III. Tea from Assam – Arup

Kumar Datta

1. Explain the Indian legend associated with the origin of tea. (30-40 words) COMPARTMENT 2022, (40-50 Words) 2023
2. What did Pranjal and Rajvir do during the journey ? Why ? (40-50 words) 2023
3. Why did Pranjal not share Rajvir’s excitement at seeing the tea gardens? (40-50 words) 2023
4. Explain the reason for Rajvir’s excitement on seeing the plantation and Pranjal’s lack of enthusiasm. (40-50 words) 2025
5. Pranjal seemed to have a different level of enthusiasm compared to Rajvir when they both saw the tree plantation. Justify. (40-50 words) 2025
- 6.
- 7.

6. Mijbil the Otter – Gavin Maxwell

1. What happened when Maxwell took Mijbil to the bathroom? What does it tell us about Mijbil? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
2. Mijbil turned out to be a playful pet. Elaborate. (40-50 words) 2024
3. Maxwell decides to keep an otter as a pet. Elucidate with reference to the fact that owning a pet is a life of commitment. (40-50 words) 2024
4. Mijbil’s transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson. (40-50 words) 2024
5. Mijbil’s transportation to England was no less than a nightmare for the author. Justify the statement using incidents from the lesson. (40-50 words) 2025
6. The story, ‘Mijbil the Otter’, has it all – emotions, humour, certain s

7. Madam Rides the Bus – Vallikkannan

1. Valli was a mature girl and ahead of her age. Justify the statement with evidence from the text. (Madam Rides the Bus) (100-120 words) 2022
2. As Valli, make a diary entry about your experience of riding the bus alone for the first time. (100-120 words) 2022
3. Valliammai comes across as a very confident, sensible and sensitive girl. Write a letter to your friend admiring Valli. (Madam Rides the Bus) (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2022
4. Whenever we want to achieve something, difficulties always come in our way. What did Valli have to do to go and ride in a bus ? (100-120 words) 2023
5. The people and surroundings are a great book to learn from. Valli in a lot from others. Mention the traits of her character which help her to learn from people and her surroundings. (100-120 words) 2023
6. How did Valli gather the details of the bus journey? (40-50 words) 2023
7. What stopped Valli from going to the stall to have a drink ? What do we learn about Valli from this ? (40-50 words) 2023
8. Valli was an extra-ordinary girl who had self-confidence and courage to realise her ambition by planning and drawing on her spirit of adventure. Discuss in reference to the chapter ‘Madam Rides the Bus’. (100-120 words) 2023
9. A desire is more personal whereas a vision has broader connotations.
You have been asked to present an analysis of Valli’s desire and Mandela’s vision and how they are respectively fulfilled. Write this presentation draft including your insights, in about 120 words, comparing the approaches of both Valli and Mandela.

You may begin like this:

One acknowledges that both, Valli and Mandela _____ however,

(Reference – Nelson Mandela – A Long Walk to Freedom & Madam Rides a Bus) (100-120 words) 2024

10. Valli was sensitive, but at the same time, she was fearless and quite determined. Think of another character from your textbook who displayed similar character traits.
Compare and contrast the lives of Valli and the other characters that you have chosen from the text of *Two Stories about Flying*.
You may begin this way:
The characters who are fearless and determined from two texts are Valli and _____.
(Reference: Madam Rides a Bus & Two Stories about Flying) (100-120 words) 2024
11. You have been chosen to address the school assembly on the occasion of Women's Day. You choose to speak on the resilience and indomitable spirit of the young girls : Anne Frank and Valli.

Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality and contrast in the situations and circumstances of both the girls. (Madam Rides the Bus and From the Diary of Anne Frank)

You may begin like this : Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to express my insights on the resilience of two young girls

You may end this way : To conclude d like to say that (100-120 words) 2024

12. Comment on Anne Frank’s and Valli’s journeys from innocence to self-awareness. (From the Diary of Anne Frank and Madam Rides the Bus) (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
13. Valli found joy and fascination in the simple act of watching the bus pass through her village. What does this reveal about her perspective on life and her surroundings ? (40-50 words) 2025
14. Upon encountering the deceased cow on the road, Valli was emotional. Comment. (40-50 words) 2025

15. How does Mijbil's incident with the bathroom tap help shape the understanding of his character ?
(40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025
- 16.
- 17.
18. Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. (100-120 words) 2025
19. How does Valli's desire to ride the bus reflect her aspirations and challenges in the context of her daily life ?
(100-120 words) 2025
20. Self-doubt and fear often act as barriers to success. On the other hand, curiosity leads to learning new things. Justify the statement citing instances from 'His First Flight' and 'Madam Rides the Bus'.
(100-120 words) 2025
21. The journeys of Anne Frank and Valli teach us the vital lesson that optimism and self-assurance empower women to rise above circumstances and overcome obstacles. Examine the similarities. (100-120 words) 2025
22. What challenges do Siddhartha in 'The Sermon at Benares' and Valliammai in 'Madam Rides the Bus' face ? How do their journeys reflect on the themes of human experience and self-realisation ? (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025
- 23.

8. The Sermon at Benares – Betty Renshaw

- How, according to Buddha, can one obtain peace of mind ? (30-40 words) 2022
- How does Buddha bring about a different perspective in Kisa Gotami's understanding of life? (100-120 words) 2022
- Grief is often seen as a measure of love. Justify your response to Buddha's sermon. (30-40 words) 2022
- "These sights so moved him that he at once went out into the world to seek enlightenment." What were the sights that moved 'him'? (30-40 words) 2022
- What does the Buddha say about the world ? (40-50 words) 2023
- Through the story of Kisa Gotami, what did the Buddha try to preach to the common man ? (100-120 words) 2023
- What did Siddhartha Gautama come across by chance when he was about twenty-five years old? (40-50 words) 2023
- 'As ripe fruits are in danger of falling early, so mortals when born are always in danger of death'. With this statement of the Buddha, find out the moral values that Kisa Gotami learnt after the death of her child. (100- 120 Words) 2023
- Why did Kisa Gotami meet the Buddha ? How did Buddha change her life ? (100-120 words) 2023
- What did Kisa Gotami do after the death of her only son ? (40-50 words) 2023
- Timely help and sympathy are a great help for those who are in grief. Gautama Buddha helped Kisa Gotami by his kind words and guidance in overcoming her grief. It is a big relief for grieving persons if support and care are extended to them. How are kindness and sympathy important in a peaceful and joyful life? (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2023

12. What message might the Buddha's story hold for those who are in positions of power and privilege? (40 -50 Words) 2024
13. You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on “**How to Deal with Loss – Personal or Material**”. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in **John Benyman's ‘The Ball Poem’** and **‘A Sermon at Benares’**.

You may begin this way.

Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

You may end in this way –

To conclude, I'd like to say that – (100-120 words) 2024

14. Grief or sadness is an emotion natural to all types of loss or significant change. You have been asked to present an analysis of the approaches of Lencho and Kisa Gotami in dealing with their respective losses.

Write this presentation draft including your insights, and comparing the approaches of both. You may begin like this : One acknowledges that Lencho had unwavering faith in God whereas Kisa Gotami in her grief, believed that her son however

(Reference A Letter to God and The Sermon at Benares) (100-120 words) 2024

15. “Not from weeping nor from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary his pain will be greater and his body will suffer.” Validate this preaching of the Buddha with reference to the story, ‘The Sermon at Benares’. (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
16. “Not from weeping or from grieving will anyone obtain peace of mind; on the contrary his pain will be greater and his body will suffer.”
Validate this preaching of Buddha with reference to the story ‘A Sermon at Benaras’. (40-50 words) 2024
17. Analyse and evaluate the role of faith in ‘A Letter to God’ and ‘The Sermon at Benares’. (100-120 words) 2025
18. Explore the theme of loss as it is depicted in both the “Ball Poem” and “The Sermon at Benaras”, highlighting the inevitable nature of this aspect in life? (100 - 120 Words) 2025
19. What challenges do Siddhartha in ‘The Sermon at Benares’ and Valliammai in ‘Madam Rides the Bus’ face ? How do their journeys reflect on the themes of human experience and self-realisation ? (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025

9. The Proposal (Play) – Anton Chekhov

- Write a brief character sketch of Lomov. (30-40 words) 2022
- What was the objective of Lomov's visit to Chubukov's house? (30-40 words) 2022
- Russian society emerges as an important character in the play . Support your answer giving instances. (100-120 words) 2022
- Natalya and her father Chubukov ‘turn around’ when Lomov puts his proposal in the open. As a reader, briefly describe what you think of Natalya and Chubukov from the play. (100-120 words) 2022
- How does Chubukov defend ‘Squeezer’? (30-40 words) COMPARTMENT 2022
- Forgiveness is the foundation of a cordial relationship. Do you agree ? How is this message conveyed in the play “ The Proposal” ? (100-120 words) 2023
- How did Chubukov react when Lomov asked for the hand of his daughter in marriage ? (40-50 words) 2023

8. Based on your understanding of the Play, 'The Proposal', what do you think of relationships? Prepare a speech draft on relationships based on Natalya's and Anne Frank's characters.

You may begin this way:

Good morning everyone.

Relationships are the bond between two people based on mutual likes, understanding, need or love. I'd like to discuss relationships as portrayed in the two texts

You may end this way:

To conclude, I'd like to say that

Thank you. (Reference: *The Proposal & From the Diary of Anne Frank*) (100-120 words) 2024

9. "Oh, what a burden, Lord, to be the father of a grown-up daughter!" Explain what this line conveys about Chubukov as a father. (40-50 words) 2024
10. Justify the title of the play "The Proposal" with reference to characters and plot. (40-50 words) 2024
11. Natalya is obstinate and argumentative. Give two examples from the story highlighting her nature. (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
12. Engaging in discussions and disputes rarely leads to problem resolution. Support the statement with evidence from the text. (40-50 words) 2025
13. Discuss how the writers use language to create humour in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' and the play 'The Proposal'. (100-120 Words) 2025
14. **Lomov:** Hear me out, I implore you! The peasants of your father's grandfather, as I have already had the honour of explaining to you, used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother. Now my aunt's grandmother, wishing to make them a present.

Natalya: I can't make head or tail of all this about aunts and grandfathers and grandmothers. The Meadows are ours, that's all.

Lomov: Mine

Natalya: Ours! You can go proving it for two days on end.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) What is Lomov pleading for?

- (a) to be heard (b) bricks for his aunt's grandmother
(c) documents of the Meadows (d) for two days time to prove himself

(ii) What effect does the following sentence have on Natalya? Why? (2)

'The peasants of your father's grandfather used to bake bricks for my aunt's grandmother.'

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The use of the phrase 'can't make head or tail' adds to a sense of _____ (confusion/realization) to the extract.

(iv) What is Lomov trying to prove?

15. **NATALYA:** Forgive us, Ivan Vassilevitch, we were all a little heated. I remember now: Oxen Meadows... really are yours.

LOMOV: My heart's beating awfully. My Meadows... My eyebrows are both twitching....

NATALYA: The Meadows are yours, yes, yours. Do sit down. [They sit] We were wrong. (EXTRACT COMPARTMENT 2025)

(i) 'We' refers to _____.

(ii) Why was Lomov's heart beating 'awfully'?

(iii) Fill in the blank with a correct word from the brackets.

The use of the phrase 'twitching eyebrows' adds to the sense of _____ (agitation/pleasure).

(iv) Why does Natalya say "Forgive us, Ivan... We were wrong"? (2)

Substantiate in about 40 words from the given extract.

Poetry:

1. Dust of Snow – Robert Frost

1. What mood of the poet is reflected in the poem 'Dust of Snow' initially? What images are used by the poet to bring about the effect? Comment. (40-50 words) 2024
2. How far would you agree that one's positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances? (40-50 words) 2024
3. It is our attitude towards a situation that makes it positive or negative. Do you agree with it? Express your views with reference to the poem, 'Dust of Snow'. (40-50 words) 2024
4. 'Dust of Snow', by Robert Frost is a poem about nature and simplicity. Elaborate. (40-50 words) 2025
5. In the poem "Dust of Snow", the 'hemlock tree' and the 'crow' hold specific meanings. Elaborate on how these symbols are utilized within the context of the poem. (40-50 words) 2025

6. The way a crow
Shook down on me
The dust of snow
From a hemlock tree
Has given my heart
A change of mood.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) Fill the blank to complete the sentence. 1 Shaking down of dust of snow gave the speaker a change of heart by _____.

(ii) How does the interaction between the natural elements (crow, snow, hemlock tree) contribute to the speaker's emotional transformation in the poem ? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks) 2025

(iii) 'Dust of Snow' is referred to as :

(A) mist (B) dust of branches (C) snow residue (D) snowflakes

(iv) The crow and the hemlock tree represent _____.

1. sorrow 2. elation 3. hope 4. anxiety 5. enthusiasm

(A) 1 only (B) 2, 3 and 5 (C) 4 only (D) 1, 4 and 5

2. Fire and Ice – Robert Frost

1. But if it had to perish twice,
I think I know enough of hate
To say that for destruction ice
Is also great
And would suffice.

(Extract COMPARTMENT 2024)

i. State whether the following is True or False :

Ice melts the hate and destructive forces present around us.

ii. What is 'ice' symbolic of in the above extract ?

iii. What does the poet mean by saying that 'ice would also suffice' ?

iv. The use of the word 'perish' corresponds best with :

(A) disembark (B) revive (C) replenish (D) disintegrate

2. Some say the world will end in fire

Some say in ice.

From what I've tasted of desire

I hold with those who favour fire.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) The speaker offers evidence to support his preference for one theory over the other.

Mention the evidence.

(ii) What is the prediction of the poet about how the world will come to an end? Answer in about 40 words. **(2 Marks)**

(iii) "Fire" and "Ice" are used in the poem as _____.

(A) similes (B) metaphors (C) repetition (D) oxymorons

(iv) Comment on the overall mood of the extract.

3. How does Frost in his poem "Fire and Ice" use symbolism to explore the destructive forces of desire and hatred? **(40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**

4.

5. Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'. **(100-120 Words) 2025**

6.

3. A Tiger in the Zoo – Leslie Norris

1. State any three disadvantages that the tiger faces inside a cage. **(40-50 words) 2023**

2. In what ways does the contrast between the tiger's natural habitat and its confinement in a concrete cell enhance the poem's exploration of captivity and its consequences for wild animals? **(40-50 words) 2025**

3. Is it ethical to enclose wild animals within cages? Discuss with reference to the poem, 'A Tiger in the Zoo'. **(40-50 words) 2025**

4. Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in 'A Tiger in the Zoo' and the tiger in 'How to Tell Wild Animals' **(100-120 Words) 2025**

5. What distinguishes the portrayal of the tiger in the poem 'A Tiger in the Zoo' from the depiction of the tiger in the poem 'How to Tell Wild Animals'? **(100-120 Words) 2025**

6.

7.

8. He stalks in his vivid stripes

The few steps of his cage,

On pads of velvet quiet,

In his quiet rage.

He should be lurking in shadow,

Sliding through long grass.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) Identify and name any one figure of speech in the above extract.

(ii) Fill in the blank with one word.

The tiger's stalking on 'pads of velvet' suggests a movement that is _____.

(iii) Based on the given lines from the poem, which words would best describe the feelings of the tiger?

(A) Calm and content

(B) Both subdued and angry

(C) Both frustrated and happy

(D) Both angry and famished

(iv) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the first four lines of the given extract.

(A) The people along the sand

All turn and look one way

They turn their back on the land

They look at the sea all day
 (B) Along the sand, the people
 All turn and look one way
 They turn back on the sand
 They look at the sea all day
 (C) The people along the sand
 Look one way and all turn
 Their backs on the land
 They look at the sea all day
 (D) The people along the sand
 They turn their back on the land
 They look one way
 At the sea all day.

4. How to Tell Wild Animals – Carolyn Wells

1. Analyze how Wells employs humour, rhyme, and exaggerated traits to not only entertain, but also educate readers about various wild animals. Explain. (40-50 words) 2025
2. Every creature possesses a unique characteristic that defines it, and this trait is closely linked to its nature. This concept is beautifully illustrated in the poem “How to Tell Wild Animals.” Elucidate. (40-50 words) 2025
- 3.
4. Explore the contrasting images of the tiger in ‘A Tiger in the Zoo’ and the tiger in ‘How to Tell Wild Animals’ (100- 120 Words) 2025

5. The Ball Poem – John Berryman

1. Explain briefly the central idea of 'The Ball Poem'. (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
2. You have been chosen to address the student gathering from the nearby schools, to speak on “How to Deal with Loss – Personal or Material”. Prepare the speech draft in not more than 120 words, with reference to the commonality of themes in John Benyman’s ‘The Ball Poem’ and ‘A Sermon at Benares’.

You may begin this way.

Good Morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how we can learn to deal with loss.

You may end in this way –

To conclude, I'd like to say that – (100-120 words) 2024

3. The Ball Poem initially appears simple but it is actually quite impactful and intense. Comment upon the theme of The Ball Poem. (40-50 words) 2024
4. You have been chosen to address the school assembly, to speak on the epistemology of loss and the resilience of the human spirit during times of crisis. Prepare the speech draft, with reference to the commonality of themes of “ The Ball Poem” and “ From the Diary of Anne Frank”.

You may begin this way : Good morning everyone. Today, I'd like to discuss two pieces of literature that offer a powerful insight into how to deal with loss and the resilience of the human spirit required during times of crisis.

You may end this way :

To conclude I'd like to Thank you. (100 - 120 Words) 2024

5. In 'The Ball Poem', Berryman explores the themes of loss, growing up, and transformation. Mandela also experienced loss of freedom and suffering along with his countrymen during his growing years on the basis of his race and colour. Compare and contrast the commonality of themes in both the texts. **(100 - 120 Words) 2025**
6. How does "The Ball Poem" by John Berryman explore the theme of loss and its profound impact on an individual's emotional state and perception of the world? **(40-50 words) 2025**
7. 'The Ball Poem' deals with the undertones of loss and responsibility. How is the poem very relatable to our lives and what important message/s do we learn from it? **(40-50 words) 2025**
- 8.
9. Explore the theme of loss as it is depicted in both the "Ball Poem" and "The Sermon at Benaras", highlighting the inevitable nature of this aspect in life? **(100 - 120 Words) 2025**
10. The protagonist in 'The Ball Poem' and the young seagull in 'His First Flight' face challenges. Discuss with reference to the two texts. **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**
- 11.

6. Amanda! – Robin Klein

1. "Don't bite your nails Amanda!

Don't hunch your shoulders Amanda!"

What do the above lines reflect about Amanda's mother and Amanda. **(30-40 words) 2022**

2. Amanda was blamed for a number of things. Mention any two. **(30-40 Words) 2022**
3. "Amanda is alone but not lonely in the world she envisions." Give instances from the poem to justify. **(30-40 words) 2022**
4. Describe any two character traits of Amanda. **(30-40 Words) COMPARTMENT 2022**
5. What impression do you form about Amanda in the poem? **(40-50 Words) 2023**
6. Why does Amanda wish to be a mermaid? **(40-50 Words) 2023**
7. In every alternate stanza, Amanda drifts into fantasy and yearns for more freedom and silence. Justify and elaborate the reason. **(40-50 Words) 2024**
8. Amanda from the poem 'Amanda' is a teenager like Anne Frank and lives in her fantasy world whereas Anne is a chatterbox. What conversation will Anne Frank have with Amanda about different perspectives of life? Write your answer in about **120 words. (2024)**
9. Explain why Amanda wants to be an orphan. Refer to the given lines from the text: "I am an orphan, roaming the street. I pattern soft dust with my hushed, bare feet. The silence is golden, the freedom is sweet." **(40-50 Words) 2024**
10. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
Stop that slouching and sit up straight,
Amanda!
(There is a languid, emerald sea,
where the sole inhabitant is me —
a mermaid, drifting blissfully.)

EXTRACT 2025

(i) How does the poet reinforce the contrast between what the narrator wants and what Amanda desires? **(2 Marks)**

(ii) What tone is conveyed through the repetition of Amanda's name in the line?

(A) loving (B) instructive (C) indifferent (D) playful

(iii) How does the imagery of the emerald sea with the mermaid contrast with Amanda's actions?

(iv) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.

(A) Sitting by the pond

Waving my wand

Awaiting my dearest

I looked above and beyond

Awaiting my love

A sudden sound, fluttered the dove
 The crackle stopped, as so did my heart
 (B) Sitting by the pond
 Holding tight to my bond
 I looked above and beyond
 Awaiting my love
 I heard her come, a sudden sound
 The crackle stopped, as so did my heart
 (C) I sat beside the pond with her
 Awaiting for her to come
 I looked above and beyond
 Awaiting my love
 A sudden sound, I turned back
 The crackle stopped, as so did my heart
 (D) Sitting by the pond
 Awaiting my love
 I looked above and beyond
 A sudden scream, I looked around
 Then a shadow fell and there was no sound
 The crackle stopped, as so did my heart.

11. Don't bite your nails, Amanda!
 Don't hunch your shoulders, Amanda!
 Stop that slouching and sit up straight, Amanda!
 ("There is a languid, emerald sea,
 where the sole inhabitant is me—
 a mermaid, drifting blissfully.")

EXTRACT 2025

- (i) What image does the above extract create about Amanda's mother?
 (ii) Why is the second verse written in brackets?
 (iii) Amanda calls herself a mermaid because _____
 (a) Mermaid is Amanda's favourite fantasy character.
 (b) Amanda loves watching a mermaid drifting in water.
 (c) Amanda longs to be free like a mermaid which sails effortlessly in the sea.
 (d) Amanda wants to sail with a mermaid in the deep-sea water.
 (iv) Amanda wants to be the sole inhabitant in the sea. Elucidate. **(2)**

12. (I am Rapunzel, I have not care;
 life in a tower is tranquil and rare;
 I'll certainly never let down my bright hair!)
 Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!
 You're always so moody, Amanda!
 Anyone would think that I nagged at you.

EXTRACT 2025

- (i) Complete the following suitably:
 Amanda sulked and became moody because _____.
 (ii) What does the girl constantly yearn for? What do you pattern about Amanda from the poem? **(2)**
 (iii) What kind of picture is painted by the poet through the line, "life in a tower is tranquil and rare"?
 (iv) The tone of the speaker in the exclamation "Stop that sulking at once, Amanda!" is
 1. uncertain 2. Aggressive 3. Dominating 4. Meek 5. moody
 Options : (a) 1, 2, 4 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 2, 4 and 5 (d) 4 and 5

13. Amanda and Valli both represent a longing for freedom. Examine the above observation with reference to the two texts. **(100-120 words) 2025**

7. Animals – Walt Whitman

- I. Walt Whitman wants to show his preference of living with animals. Justify. (30-40 Words) 2022
- II. Walt Whitman speaks of the human race with a tinge of sarcasm. Which are the two reasons that you agree with? (30-40 Words) 2022
- III. Why does the poet describe the animals as 'placid' and 'self-contained'? (30-40 Words) COMPARTMENT 2022

8. The Trees – Adrienne Rich

1. What happens to the house when the trees move out of it? Comment. (40-50 words) 2023

2. The leaves strain toward the glass
small twigs stiff with exertion
long-cramped boughs shuffling under the roof
like newly discharged patients
half-dazed, moving
to the clinic doors.

EXTRACT 2025

(i) How does the comparison between the boughs and newly discharged patients contribute to the theme or message of the poem? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(ii) Complete the sentence with the appropriate option.

The imagery and descriptions in the poem create a mood of _____.

- (A) satisfaction and elation (B) transition and uncertainty
(C) confusion and chaos (D) pessimism and certainty

(iii) Fill in the blank with one word.

The stiff movement of the twigs in the above extract suggests the _____.

(iv) Why does the poet describe the bough as 'shuffling'?

3. I sit inside, doors open to the veranda
writing long letters in which
I scarcely mention the departure
of the forest from the house.
The night is fresh, the whole moon shines
in a sky still open

EXTRACT 2025

- i. What atmosphere or mood is created by the language and imagery used in the above lines? (2)
- ii. Choose the option that correctly pairs the two different meanings implied by the use of 'open' twice in the extract:
(A) entry point - vastness
(B) sharing a common space - great view
(C) allowing access and vision - expanse of space
(D) advantage - obstacles ahead
- iii. From the provided extract, what is conspicuously absent from the long letters the speaker is writing while they sit indoors with the doors open to the veranda?
- iv. How does the poet describe the night?
1. Dark 2. frightening 3. dense 4. Fresh 5. bright

Select the correct option: EXTRACT 2025

EXTRACT 2025

(A) 1 and 5

(B) Only 3

(C) 4 and 5

(D) 2 and 4

3. My head is full of whispers
which tomorrow will be silent.
Listen. The glass is breaking.
The trees are stumbling forward
into the night. Winds rush to meet them.
The moon is broken like a mirror,
its pieces flash now in the crown
of the tallest oak.

EXTRACT 2025

- (i) The metaphorical expression used by the poet to describe the movement of the trees is _____.
- (ii) Based on the tone, discuss how Adrienne Rich presents the conflict between man and nature. (2)
- (iii) What is the mood or atmosphere conveyed by the imagery in the passage?
(a) Calm and tranquil (b) Eerie and foreboding
(c) Joyful and celebratory (d) Melancholic and traumatic
- (iv) Why would the whispers be silent tomorrow?

4. The trees inside are moving out into the forest,
the forest that was empty all these days
where no bird could sit
no insect hide
no sun bury its feet in shadow.

(EXTRACT COMPARTMENT 2025)

- (i) Where are the trees moving out from?
(ii) How does the author's use of descriptive language enhance the impact on the reader?
(iii) Complete the following suitably:
The emptiness of the forest is highlighted by _____.
- (iv) Explain the phrase "no sun bury its feet" with reference to the extract. (2)

9. Fog – Carl Sandburg

1. Interpret how nature is a living entity as characterized by Carl Sandburg in his poem. (40-50 Words) COMPARTMENT 2024
2. Examine the role of Nature in the poems 'The Dust of Snow' and 'Fog'. (100-120 Words) 2025

10. The Tale of Custard the Dragon – Ogden

Nash

1. How did Custard prove 'the cowardly dragon' tag to be untrue? (30-40 Words) 2022
2. How would you describe Custard the Dragon? (30-40 Words) 2022
3. How did Ink and Blink behave when they saw the pirate? (30-40 Words) COMPARTMENT 2022
4. How does the poem 'The Tale of Custard The Dragon' differ from the traditional ballad? (40-50 Words) 2023
5. Describe how Custard the dragon fights with the pirate. (40-50 Words) 2023
6. What makes Custard, the dragon look fearsome? Explain. (40-50 Words) 2024
7. Ogden Nash uses vivid imagery in 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' to appeal to the senses. Elaborate on the imagery used for the Pirate. (40-50 Words) 2024

8. Belinda and other animals have been described as brave. But on seeing the pirate they behaved in a cowardly way. How did they react? **(40-50 Words) 2024**
9. "The Tale of Custard the Dragon" is a humorous ballad. How does Ogden Nash create humour and entertainment in the poem? **(40-50 Words) 2024**
10. What role does each of Belinda's pets play in the narrative? Select any two of her pets. **(40-50 Words) 2024**
11. Discuss how the writers use language to create humour in the poem 'The Tale of Custard the Dragon' and the play 'The Proposal'. **(100-120 Words) 2025**

12. *Belinda giggled till she shook the house,
And Blink said Weeck! Which is giggling for a mouse,
Ink and Mustard rudely asked his age,
When Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
Suddenly, suddenly they heard a nasty sound,
And Mustard growled, and they all looked around.*

EXTRACT 2025

- i. What inference can be drawn from the repetition of 'suddenly, suddenly' in the above extract?
- (A) The scene shook the house
(B) It highlights the swift assault
(C) It emphasises that an unexpected noise was heard
(D) It directs our notice to Mustard's growling
2. Despite its symbolism of captivity, what leads Custard to have a preference for staying in a cage?
3. Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the first four lines of the given extract:

(A) Through the telescope she saw a star
which she thought was very far
She stretched her hand
and felt the crumple of the sand.

(B) Through the telescope she saw a star
She stretched her hand
As it was very far
But felt the crumble of the sand.

(C) Through the telescope she saw a star
Which she thought was very far
Her hand she stretched
But felt the crumble of the sand.

(D) Through the telescope she saw a star
Which she thought was very far
Her hand she stretched afar
But felt the crumble of the sand.

IV. In the given extract,

The difference between the other animals and Custard is that Custard behaves like a _____ (coward / dragon).

13. Belinda was as brave as a barrel full of bears,
And Ink and Blink chased lions down the stairs,
Mustard was as brave as a tiger in a rage,

But Custard cried for a nice safe cage.
Belinda tickled him, she tickled him unmerciful,
Ink, Blink and Mustard, they rudely called him Percival.

EXTRACT 2025

- (i) What poetic device is used in the first sentence?
- (ii) What was ironical about Custard being referred to as Percival? **(2)**
- (iii) Complete the following suitably:
The word 'unmerciful' in the given context implies that Belinda is _____.
- (iv) What image of Custard is created in the above lines?

14. Belinda embraced him, Mustard licked him,
No one mourned for his pirate victim.
Ink and Blink in glee did gyrate
Around the dragon that ate the pirate.

(EXTRACT COMPARTMENT 2025)

- (i) Complete the following suitably:
Belinda's and Mustard's reaction reflected a sense of _____.
- (ii) 'Embraced' in this context means:
 - (a) to accept
 - (b) to feel awkward and sheepish
 - (c) to put your arms around someone
 - (d) to show disagreement
- (iii) Select the option that applies the same rhyme scheme as the lines of the given extract.
 - (a) I have a cat
I have a house
I have a mouse
I have a hat.
 - (B) She went there
The house was bare
Not a sound was heard
Except the tweet of a bird.
 - (C) People along the sand
all turn to look one way.
The wetter ground like glass
swept their gaze away.
 - (D) The bird flew
to the sky blue
It was beauty true
I have to say
- (iv) What is the irony in the behaviour of the characters in the given extract? **(2)**

11. For Anne Gregory – William Butler Yeats

1. The poet in the poem ‘For Anne Gregory’ conveys beauty as temporary. Explain with reference to the poem. **(40-50 Words) 2023**
2. Physical beauty is not permanent, but the beauty of character or internal beauty is permanent. Justify on the basis of your reading of ‘For Anne Gregory’. **(100-120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2023**
3. Explain why the speaker mentions God in the poem “For Anne Gregory”. **(40-50 Words) 2024**
4. Do you think you can love a person for his/her inner beauty alone and not care about the physical appearance ? Justify with the reference of the theme. **(40-50 Words) 2024**
5. The idea of beauty is a one-dimensional cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. Comment on the statement with reference to the conventional ideas of beauty viz-a-viz the poet’s central idea of the poem ‘For Anne Gregory’. **(100-120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2024**
6. The idea of beauty is a one-dimensional cultural conception or one that has been created by human beings themselves. Comment on the statement with reference to the conventional ideas of beauty in the poem ‘For Anne Gregory’. **(40-50 Words) 2025**
7. In the poem “For Anne Gregory”, how does the poet challenge or conform to the traditional notions of beauty and love ? **(40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**
- 8.
- 9.
10. “I heard an old religious man
But yesternight declare
That he had found a text to prove
That only God, my dear,
Could love you for yourself alone
And not your yellow hair.” **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) Complete the sentence appropriately : 1 The speaker addresses the person he is speaking to as “my dear” because _____.

(ii) The poet mentions “yellow hair”.

What is its significance in the context of the statement ? Answer in about 40 words. 2

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The poet suggests that God’s love in comparison to that of a human being is _____
(selfish/selfless).

(iv) As per the above extract, what attributes does God not love a person for ? Select the correct option.

1. Wealth 2. Physical appearance 3. Intelligence 4. Inner qualities 5. Youth

OPTIONS: (A) 1 and 4 (B) 3, 4, and 5 (C) 2 and 4 (D) Only 4

Footprints Without Feet – Supplementary Reader

1. A Triumph of Surgery – James Herriot

1. What was Mr. Herriot’s strict advice ? Did Mrs. Pumphrey agree to his advice ? (40-50 words) 2023
2. Why was Mr. Herriot shocked at Tricky’s appearance? (40-50 words) 2023

3. How did Mrs. Pumphrey treats Tricky? (40-50 words) 2023
4. What excuses did Mrs. Pumphrey make about Mr. Herriot's advice ? (40-50 words) 2023
5. Why is Dr. Herriot tempted to keep Tricky on as a permanent guest? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
6. What does Mr. Herriot mean by "happy period" for himself and his partners? Explain. (40-50 words) 2024
7. We are often over-indulgent towards people we care about. Explain with reference to the context of the story A Triumph of Surgery. (40-50 words) 2024
8. Analyze how Herriot uses Tricky and Mrs. Pumphrey's relationship to comment on societal attitudes towards pets and the responsibilities associated with their care. (40-50 words) 2025
9. Lunch transformed into a significant ceremonial event for Mr. Herriot and his associates. Do you agree? Explain with reference to 'A Triumph of Surgery'. (40-50 words) 2025
10. What role does Tricky's immediate environment play in "A Triumph of Surgery" ? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025

11. In the story, 'A Triumph of Surgery', a wealthy woman's nonsensical behaviour, is depicted. Do you think such individuals are merely displaying foolishness or could their actions potentially inflict harm upon others? Support your answer from the text. (100-120 words) 2025

12.

13.

14.

15. Tricky was tottering along in his little tweed coat.... He struggled on, drooping in his harness. I thought it wouldn't be long before I heard from Mrs. Pumphrey. The expected call came within a few days. Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught. Tricky would eat nothing. Refused even his favourite dishes; and besides, he had bouts of vomiting. He spent all his time lying on a rug, panting. Didn't want to go for walks, didn't want to do anything. I had made my plans in advance. The only way was to get Tricky out of the house for a period. I suggested that he be hospitalized for about a fortnight to be kept under observation. The poor lady almost swooned. She was sure he would pine and die if he did not see her every day. But I took a firm line. Tricky was very ill and this was the only way to save him. **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) Why had the author made his plans in advance ?

(A) Mrs. Pumphrey was worried that Tricky would pine and die without her.

(B) The author was aware of the severity of Tricky's medical condition.

(C) The author knew about Mrs. Pumphrey's financial condition.

(D) The author had planned his own vacation.

(ii) The author firmly proposed the need to remove Tricky from the house for a specified period. Elaborate the reason for doing so in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The word 'swooned' in the following sentence indicates almost _____ (tripped/fainted).

(iv) "Mrs. Pumphrey was distraught." What does this suggest about her character ? Mention any one reason.

2. The Thief's Story – Ruskin Bond

1. Why does Anil not hand over Hari Singh to the police ? (40-50 words) 2023
2. How did Hari Singh justify to himself his stealing Anil's money? (40-50 words) 2023
3. Trust and compassion can reform a person. Justify this statement in the light of the lesson 'The Thief's Story'. (100- 120 Words) 2023
4. What does the thief say about the different reactions of the people when they are robbed ? (40-50 words) 2023
5. Why did Hari Singh smile in his most appealing way towards the end of the story ? (40-50 words) 2023

6. Hari Singh says – “He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.” Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of *The Thief’s Story*. **(100- 120 Words) 2024**
7. How far would you agree that one’s positivity can bring in a spark of brightness even in adverse circumstances? **(40-50 words) 2024**
8. Hari Singh says – “*He knew it but neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.*” Anil successfully addressed the situation by not addressing it at all. Elaborate based on your reading of ‘*The Thief’s Story*’. **(100-120 words) 2024**
9. Imagine that Hari Singh from *The Thief’s Story* by Ruskin Bond, writes a diary entry, exploring the theme of human values and relations that are essential in life and can transform a person in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry as Hari Singh. **(100-120 words) 2024**
10. While asking for the job, Hari Singh displays his ‘most appealing smile’. This smile is crucial to the story and makes a few more appearances. Explain why and how this ‘smile’ is a calculated one. **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2024**
11. How was Hari Singh’s ‘appealing smile’ at the end different from similar smiles of his on earlier occasions? **(40-50 words) 2025**
- 12.
13. Anil’s acceptance and forgiveness of the thief demonstrates empathy and generosity. Elaborate. **(100-120 words) 2025**
14. Hari’s character evolves from being deceitful and opportunistic to remorseful and seeking redemption. In the light of the above information, describe how his decision to return the money signifies a moral awakening in him and a newfound appreciation for Anil’s kindness and mentorship. **(100-120 words) 2025**
- 15.
16. Later, he patted me on the head and said never mind, he’d teach me to cook. He also taught me to write my name and said he would soon teach me to write whole sentences and to add numbers. I was grateful. I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve. It was quite pleasant working for Anil. I made the tea in the morning and then would take my time buying the day’s supplies, usually making a profit of about a rupee a day. I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind. **EXTRACT 2025**
- (i) What does the following line tell us about the character of Anil ?
“I think he knew I made a little money this way but he did not seem to mind.”
- (ii) Which of the following best describes the realization Hari Singh had while working for Anil ?
(A) that he would become a rich person one day
(B) that Anil was a very intelligent master but a miser
(C) that he would be able to accomplish a lot if he gets educated
(D) that Anil made a lot of money from his job
- (iii) What did Anil promise to teach Hari Singh, and how did Hari Singh feel about the opportunity to learn ? Answer in about 40 words.
- (iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1 The narrator earned extra money by making a/an _____ (profit/investment) of about a rupee a day.
17. There was a fifty rupee note between his fingers. My heart sank. I thought I had been discovered. “I made some money yesterday,” he explained. “Now you’ll be paid regularly.” My spirits rose. But when I took the note, I saw it was still wet from the night’s rain. “Today we’ll start writing sentences,” he said. He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything. **EXTRACT 2025**
- (i) In the context of the given extract:
What was the feeling UNLIKELY to have been on seeing ‘a fifty rupee note between his fingers’?
(a) joyous (b) sad (c) unhappy (d) worried
- (ii) How does the prospect of being paid regularly affect the narrator’s motivation and hope for the future?

Answer in about 40 words.

(2)

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the bracket:

The person spoken about did not let the narrator realise that his act of stealing was caught. It reflects the _____ (nobility/dishonesty) of his character.

(iv) Compare the meanings of the expressions:

“My heart sank”, and “My spirits rose”.

3. The Midnight Visitor – Robert Arthur

1. How did Ausable get rid of Max without using a weapon? (40-50 words) 2023, (40-50 words) 2025
2. Describe Max as a secret agent. (40-50 words) 2023
3. Why did Ausable frame the story of the balcony? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
4. Who was Henry? What role did he play in Ausable’s plan? (40-50 words) 2024
5. Despite his unusual appearance, Ausable’s presence of mind helped him get rid of Max. Comment with reference to the story The Midnight Visitor. (40-50 words) 2024
6. One should never judge a book by its cover. Explain with reference to Ausable and how he outwits Max with his presence of mind. (40-50 words) 2024
7. The non-existent balcony plays a crucial role in ‘The Midnight Visitor’. How ? Examine the witty strategy used by Ausable in emerging as a super spy. (100- 120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2024
8. Describe Ausable’s fabricated tale regarding the balcony. (40-50 words) 2025
9. Examine the witty strategy used by Ausable in emerging as a super spy. (40-50 words) 2025
10. ‘The devil is in the details’ captures the power of unexamined details and how it results in unforeseen difficulties. Discuss the statement in context to “The Midnight Visitor”. (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025
- 11.
- 12.
13. “It’s not my balcony,” Ausable said with extreme irritation. “It belongs to the next apartment.” He glanced explanatorily at Fowler. “You see,” he said, “this room used to be part of a large unit, and the next room — through that door there — used to be the living room. It had the balcony, which extends under my window now. You can get onto it from the empty room two doors down — and somebody did, last month. The management promised to block it off. But they haven’t.” **EXTRACT 2025**

(i) What was the management supposed to do regarding the balcony ?

(ii) Which of the following was the reason that irritated Ausable about the balcony ?

(A) its size and layout

(B) its location relative to his apartment

(C) its accessibility from the neighbouring unit

(D) its maintenance by the apartment management

(iii) How does Ausable’s detailed explanation of the balcony’s history and current accessibility contribute to the atmosphere of suspense or tension in the story ? Answer in about 40 words. (2 Marks)

(iv) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets. 1 The reference to ‘last month’ and ‘now’ adds to a sense of _____ (reconciliation/mystery).

4. A Question of Trust – Victor Canning

1. What does the phrase “Honour among thieves” mean ? Why does Horace get angry at this phrase ? (40-50 words) 2023
2. How did the lady in red manage to outsmart and outmanoeuvre the other thief, Horace Danby, by robbing the safe without leaving a single fingerprint? (100- 120 Words) 2024
3. “Horace Danby is a thief who was cheated by another thief” Justify. (40-50 words) 2024
4. Horace ended up in prison only to regret that a man should not trust anyone blindly without finding out the truth. Do you think his own foolishness was responsible for his arrest? (100- 120 Words) 2025

- 5.
- 6.

5. Footprints Without Feet – Herbert George Wells (H.G. Wells)

1. What happened when Mr. and Mrs. Hall entered the stranger's room? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2023
2. Scientists contribute to make the world a better place. Griffin is an antithesis to this statement. Justify. (40-50 words) 2024
3. Imagine that Griffin's conscience pricks him and he decides to write a diary entry, about misusing science and endangering society, in the context of his own experience. Write this diary entry, as Griffin, in about 120 words. (100-120 words) 2024
4. Griffin's brilliance as a man of science fades before his darker traits. Give reasons from the text to support your answer. (100-120 words) 2024
5. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters. In light of the above information, trace the character arc of Griffin in H.G. Wells Footprints without Feet. (100-120 words) 2024
6. Do you think Griffin is a brilliant scientist who degenerated into a lawless person? Compare him as a scientist and a human being. (100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2024
7. Discuss the character development of Griffin, as he grapples with the repercussions of his actions and attempts to navigate a world, where his once extraordinary abilities have become a burden. (40-50 words) 2025
8. Why does Griffin in "Footprints without Feet" flee from the store in London? (40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025
9. Evaluate Griffin's character as a brilliant scientist and a lawless person. (100-120 words) 2025
- 10.

6. The Making of a Scientist – Robert W. Peterson

1. What are the essential qualities for becoming a scientist, according to Ebright's teacher? (30-40 words) 2022
2. What role did Ebright's mother play in his success? (30-40 words) 2022, (40-50 words) 2023, 2024
3. A parent should try to be a companion to a child. Explain with reference to Richard's mother. (30-40 words) 2022
4. What did Ebright learn from his failure at the Science fair? (30-40 words) 2022
5. How did Dr. Urquhart encourage Ebright? (30-40 words) COMPARTMENT 2022
6. What opinion did Mr. Weiherer, Ebright's Social Science teacher have about him? (40-50 words) 2023
7. Why did Richard Ebright raise a flock of butterflies? (40-50 words) 2023
8. What lesson did Ebright learn when he did not win anything at a science fair? (40-50 words) 2023
9. How can one say that Ebright's curiosity / inquisitiveness drove him to become a scientist? (40-50 words) 2024
10. Ebright's journey of becoming a leading scientist conveys a strong message to us. His inquisitiveness and competency drove him to become a great scientist. In what manner does Richard Ebright's perseverance, dedication and inquisitiveness inspire you to pursue your dreams? (100-120 Words) 2025
11. Trace the transformation of Richard Ebright from a young man with potential to a respected and accomplished scientist. (100-120 Words) 2025

7. The Necklace – Guy de Maupassant

1. Matilda realised that one little act of negligence can lead to total ruin. What do you learn from this and how would you move on in life ? **(100-120 Words) 2022**
2. As a reader do you sympathise with Matilda? Give reasons from the text to support your answer. **(100-120 Words) 2022**
3. How did the necklace change the life of Loisel ? **(30-40 words) 2022**
4. Matilda’s greed and ambition brings about her downfall. Support the statement with references from the text. **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2022**
5. Those who are satisfied with what they have are happy in life. Those who aspire more than what they can afford ruin their life. Matilda was one such person. If she were content with her life she would have led a happy life. Elaborate on the basis of the chapter ‘The Necklace.’ **(100-120 Words) 2023**
6. Mme Loisel’s disposition invites her doom. Elucidate with reference to the text. **(100-120 Words) 2023**
7. Contentment in one’s life is very important to lead a peaceful life. We should be happy with what we have and should not crave for what we don’t have. Matilda suffered in life because she was not content in her life. Her desires led to her disaster. What do you learn from her mistakes in life? **(100-120 Words) 2023**
8. Matilda was very proud of her beauty and charm and this led to her downfall. Elaborate. **(100-120 Words) 2023**
9. Matilda’s over-ambitiousness was the cause of her destruction. Justify. **(100-120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2023**
10. What is the twist at the end of the story ‘The Necklace’? **(40- 50 Words) 2024**
11. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of their experiences, challenges, and interactions with other characters.
In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of **Matilda** in Guy De Maupassant’s ‘*The Necklace*’, in about **120 words. 2024**
12. ‘The Necklace’ is a lesson in discontent and unreasonable materialism. Discuss the protagonist’s greatest failing. **(100 - 120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2024**
13. Why does Mme Loisel hastily depart from the ball when her husband places a modest wrap on her shoulders ? **(40- 50 Words) 2025**
14. Refusing to accept our circumstances can result in an unhappy life. Discuss in brief with reference to the story ‘The Necklace’. **(40- 50 Words) 2025**
15. ‘The Necklace’ is a lesson in discontentment and unreasonable materialism. In light of the preceding statement, discuss Matilda’s greatest failing. **(40- 50 Words) 2025**
16. M. Loisel is a caring and considerate husband. Support the statement with evidence from the text. **(40-50 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**
- 17.
18. Matilda’s character embodies the journey of change or progression throughout the story, emphasizing the transformations she endured as a consequence of her experiences, trials, and engagements with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the transformation seen in Matilda’s character in the story. **(100 - 120 Words) 2025**
19. “He was silent, stupefied, in dismay, at the sight of his wife weeping. He stammered, “What is the matter? What is the matter?” By a violent effort, she had controlled her vexation and responded in a calm voice, wiping her moist cheeks, “Nothing. Only I have no dress and consequently I cannot go to this affair. Give your card to some colleague whose wife is better fitted out than I.” He was grieved, but answered, “Let us see, Matilda. How much would a suitable costume cost, something that would serve for their occasions, something very simple?” She reflected for some seconds thinking of a sum that could ask for without bringing with it an immediate refusal and a frightened exclamation from the economical clerk.” **EXTRACT 2025**
- i. What can we infer about Matilda’s emotions and financial situation based on her husband’s reaction and her response to not having a dress for the affair? **(2)**

- ii. Which of the following is NOT a reason for Matilda’s distress in the extract?
 - (A) She has no suitable dress for the affair.
 - (B) She is upset about her husband’s reaction.
 - (C) She is worried about the cost of a suitable costume.
 - (D) The card did not bear her name.
- iii. What did Matilda suggest that her husband do with the card?
- iv. In the given extract what does the term 'economic clerk' imply?

8. The Hack Driver – Sinclair Lewis

- I. Describe the feelings of the young lawyer when he came to know the reality of the hack driver. (30-40 words) 2022
- II. Write a brief character sketch of the hack driver. (100-120 Words) 2022
- III. How was the hack driver recognised? (30-40 words) 2022
- IV. What did the hack driver tell the narrator about Lutkins’ mother? (30-40 words) COMPARTMENT 2022

9. Bholi – K.A. Abbas

1. Imagine you are Bholi and you have been invited to give a speech on the importance of girl’s education. Draft a speech on “ Girl Education and Empowerment “. (100-120 Words) 2022
2. After reading the story of Bholi. Do you find her to be a “role model” for village girls? Discuss (100-120 Words) 2022
3. Education is always a great asset in the life of a woman. How did Bholi, an educated girl, face the challenge posed by Bishamber’s greed ? (100-120 Words) 2023
4. Bholi was believed to be a ‘dumb cow’. What turned her into a fearless, bold and confident girl ? (100-120 Words) 2023
5. Destiny had been cruel to Bholi yet she made a place for herself in a conservative society. Discuss. (100-120 Words) 2023
6. ‘Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else.’ These words of encouragement from the teacher highlight that a change in social attitude and encouragement can help a child like Bholi to become confident and face the world bravely. On the basis of the lesson ‘Bholi’, write how social attitudes towards Bholi made her an introvert. What should be done to help such children face the world bravely? (100-120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2023
7. Why did Bholi’s teacher feel like an artist admiring her masterpiece? (40-50 Words) 2024
8. Do you think Bholi could have confidently refused to marry Bishamber if she wasn’t educated? Give reasons. (40-50 Words) 2024
9. A character arc is the transformation or development of a character throughout a story and refers to the changes a character undergoes as a result of his/her experiences, challenges and interactions with other characters. In the light of the above information, trace the character arc of Bholi in K.A. Abbas Bholi (100-120 Words) 2024
10. Imagine that Bholi writes a diary entry, exploring the themes of “Girl Child” and “Impact of Education, in the context of her own experiences. Write this diary entry, as Bholi. (100-120 Words) 2024
11. Bholi manages to break out of her shell and metamorphosize from an under confident girl to a bold woman, who brimmed with confidence. Analyse the impact of education in her life. How does this story of self-transformation give us hope and encourage us to never compromise on our self-respect and dignity? (100-120 Words) COMPARTMENT 2024
12. “In time you will be more learned than anyone else in the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you.” What effect did her teacher’s words have on Bholi ? Elaborate.“In time you will be more learned than anyone else in

the village. Then no one will ever be able to laugh at you.” What effect did her teacher’s words have on Bholi ? Elaborate. **(40-50 Words) 2025**

13. Bholi’s heart was brimming with “fresh optimism and a renewed existence.” What significance does the expression “a new hope and a new life” hold for Bholi? **(40-50 Words) 2025**
14. Education acts as a catalyst for a significant transformation in Bholi. Comment. **(40-50 Words) 2025**
- 15.
- 16.
17. Discuss how Bholi evolves through the story. What are the qualities that contribute to her transformation from a timid girl to a confident young woman ? **(100-120 Words) 2025**
18. Imagine you are Bholi and write a diary entry, explaining how you dare to take such a bold step of refusing to marry Bishamber. **(100-120 Words) 2025**
19. It is truly said that a good teacher is the light that helps one cross even the darkest of paths through honing their inherent qualities which enable them to shine bright and strong in life. In what ways does Sulekha’s teacher epitomize this saying? How did she become the pillar of support and strength for Sulekha? **(100-120 Words) 2025**
20. The chapter ‘Bholi’ enables the readers to question values and customs prevailing in society. With reference to the text, discuss the above statement. **(100-120 words) COMPARTMENT 2025**

10. The Book That Saved the Earth – Claire Boiko

1. A well-known book of nursery rhymes saved the world from a Martian invasion. Comment with reference to ‘The Book that Saved the Earth’. **(40-50 Words) 2024**
2. How did Think-Tank interpret the following nursery rhyme?
“How does your garden grow with cockle shells and silver bells?” **(40-50 Words) 2024**
3. How did Apprentice Noodle act smartly by suggesting something about the book without offending Think-Tank ? **(40-50 Words) 2024**
4. Today reading books is on the decline because of the prevalence of electronic media. Contrarily, earth is saved by a ‘Book’ in the chapter “*The Book That Saved the Earth*”. Elaborate. **(40-50 Words) 2025**
5. Think-tank excelled in misinterpreting and misrepresenting things. Do you agree? Justify giving appropriate reasons. **(40-50 Words) 2025**
6. Half-baked knowledge is always dangerous. Rushing to conclusions without going deep into the details of things always leads to uninvited chaos and disasters. Explain the above mentioned statements in the light of Think-Tank’s interpretation of the rhymes in the book ‘Mother Goose’. **(100-120 Words) 2025**
7. **NOODLE:** (bowing) O Great and Mighty Think-Tank, most powerful and intelligent creature in the whole universe, what are your orders?
THINK-TANK: (peevisly) You left out part of my salutation, Apprentice Noodle. Go over the whole thing again. **(EXTRACT COMPARTMENT 2025)**

(i) According to the extract, Noodle is a _____ to Think-Tank.

Select the correct option:

(a) carpenter (b) subordinate (c) master (d) friend

(ii) What does the above extract reveal about the character of Think-Tank? **(2)**

(iii) Fill in the blank with the correct word from the brackets.

The use of the word ‘peevisly’ suggests that Think-Tank was feeling _____ (elated/annoyed).

(iv) How does Noodle describe Think-Tank in his salutation?